



PORT WASHINGTON-SAUKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

We educate all children to reach their greatest potential.

DUANE A. WOELFEL
Director of Special Services

100 West Monroe Street
Port Washington, WI 53074

Tel. (262) 268-6079
Fax (262) 284-7742
Email: duane.woelfel@pwssd.k12.wi.us

Michael R. Weber, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

100 West Monroe Street
Port Washington, WI 53074

Website: www.pwssd.k12.wi.us

April 23, 2021

Hello PWSSD Families,

I am hoping to provide clarification on the recently updated COVID-19 guidelines for schools. Specifically, to address the quarantine requirements once an individual has been fully vaccinated and to provide clarity on the CDC's updated guidelines for physical distancing of students in the school setting.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services published a document outlining the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) quarantine guidelines for individuals within the school setting who have been fully vaccinated. You can find that document, the Post-Vaccination Guidance for Schools, by following this link; <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02944.pdf>. Please note, "fully vaccinated," per the CDC's definition, is an individual who is at least 14 days past their completed series of COVID-19 vaccinations (two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson). Prior to the 14 days past full vaccination, an individual determined to be a close contact will still need to follow the current quarantine guidelines. Please note, this only applies to quarantine requirements for individuals due to close contact who do not develop any symptoms. Per the health department, any individual that develops symptoms of COVID-19 will still need to isolate 10 days from symptom onset or receive a negative COVID test to return to in-person school regardless of vaccination status.

A few weeks ago, the CDC published updates to their Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention and Operating Schools during COVID-19: CDC's Considerations. One of these updates included a change to the recommendation for physical distancing between students from six feet to three feet. This means that the CDC now recommends that students be seated in classrooms, etc., at least three feet apart (as opposed to at least six feet apart as previously recommended). This change in physical distancing recommendations did not change the definition of close contact. The CDC continues to support the original definition of close contact as anyone who was within six feet of a confirmed positive individual for greater than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period during the positive individual's contagious period. You can find the CDC definition of close contact here, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>. Therefore, the contact tracing process and defining of close contacts has not changed and continues to use six feet as a parameter.

I hope this helps to clarify the recent updates to COVID-19 guidelines affecting our schools. As always, thank you so much for your patience and cooperation during these trying times.

Sincerely,

Abby Kirchen, BSN, RN
District Nurse
262-268-6075
abby.kirchen@pwssd.k12.wi.us